



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Next Manual Snow Survey Set for March 3

SACRAMENTO – The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will conduct this winter's third manual snow survey on March 3 just off Highway 50 near Sierra-at-Tahoe Road approximately 90 miles east of Sacramento. **(The date was moved from March 2; media that had inquired within the past few days about the survey are urged to note the change.)**

Recent electronic readings have revealed a trend of declining water content in the snowpack this winter. Today, the statewide water content is just 19 percent of the historical average for the date. The season's first two manual surveys on December 30 and January 29 found a below-normal snowpack. The statewide water equivalent was just 50 percent and 25 percent, respectively, of the historical averages on those dates.

Most of the state's precipitation normally falls in the north and is collected there for distribution throughout California. The north has had only two storm series this wet season, in mid-December and early February; both were warm storms and did not produce significant snowfall. The northern Sierra snowpack's water equivalent today is only 17 percent of the February 26 historical average.

The news media may accompany DWR snow surveyors on March 3. Reporters and photographers should bring snowshoes or cross-country skis and park along Highway 50.

Measurements will begin at 11 a.m., and results should be available by early afternoon.

Electronic snowpack readings are available on the Internet at:

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cdecapp/snowapp/sweq.action>

Electronic reservoir readings may be found at:

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cdecapp/resapp/getResGraphsMain.action>

For a broader snapshot of current and historical weather conditions, see DWR's Drought and Water Conditions pages:

Breaking Drought News Page:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/waterconditions/>

Water Conditions Page:

<http://water.ca.gov/waterconditions/waterconditions.cfm>

For water conservation tips, visit Save Our Water: <http://saveourwater.com>

